

**REMARKS**

**Status of Claims**

Claims 11-12 are pending in this application, both being independent. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are canceled.

**Summary of Official Action**

In the Official Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP-02-092479, and claims 2, 4 and 5 variously were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as unpatentable over the JP '479 reference in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP 02-092480 and U.S. Patent No. 4,048,705 (Blainpain).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

**Allowed Subject Matter**

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claims 11 and 12 are allowed.

**Claim Amendments**

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and solely to advance prosecution of the present application to issue, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are canceled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicant reserves all rights to the subject matter recited in these claims, including the right to file a continuation application directed to the subject matter. No new matter has been added.

**Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because e.g. they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:CPW/eks

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 12, 2005

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